

Gedeon Files Affidavit That He Was Under Legal Age When Signed Here

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**JOE GEDEON WAS NOT OF AGE
WHEN HE SIGNED WITH LOCALS**
Player, in Sworn Statement to Ban Johnson, Says He Was a Minor When Griffith Picked Him Up.

BY J. ED GRILLO.

In the affidavit Joe Gedeon filed with Ban Johnson he says he was not of age when he signed with Washington, and that for this reason his contract with Manager Griffith was not legal. Gedeon is believed now to be twenty-two years old, and, according to this reckoning, he was not of age when Griffith picked him up.

Just where Gedeon got the advice that he was at liberty to sign with the Feds and file an affidavit to the effect that he was not of age is not known, but it is a safe guess it was not his own idea.

Although the chances are that there will be no new owners for the Cleveland Indians—and there apparently are none in sight—the training plans for the coming spring are going merrily on. Vice President Barnard has practically completed his arrangements for the training trip. He has a list of thirty players who are slated to leave some time late in February. Manager Lee Pohl already has arranged to take the pitchers and catchers to New Orleans February 19 in order to give them a good start and have them ready by the time the regular players get there. Charley Somers is not taking any part in the team's training plans. He has not been notified that he is to be retained as head of the club, but that undoubtedly is what is going to happen within a few weeks, for there is not a possibility in view of any one paying the price the bankers' committee demands for the club.

What does the Cincinnati club want with Bill Louden, former member of the Detroit team, who jumped the Providence team for the Feds and failed to make good there. Reports are to the effect that Louden has been signed by the Cincinnati club and that he is figured on as being one of the team's regular infielders. Louden is not of major league caliber, and never has been, and just who tipped off Manager Herzog that he had a chance to make good with his team is not known, but whoever it was must have been kidding the Herrmann team leader.

Joe Jackson of the Detroit News has this to say of the report that Baltimore is blocking the withdrawal of the Feds' suit against organized base ball—Baltimore, always the dog in the manger, is living up to its reputation, as suggested by a statement issued by President Johnson of the American League a day or two ago. That was when he said that the peace pact is not actually completed, and cannot be until the Federal League suits are withdrawn.

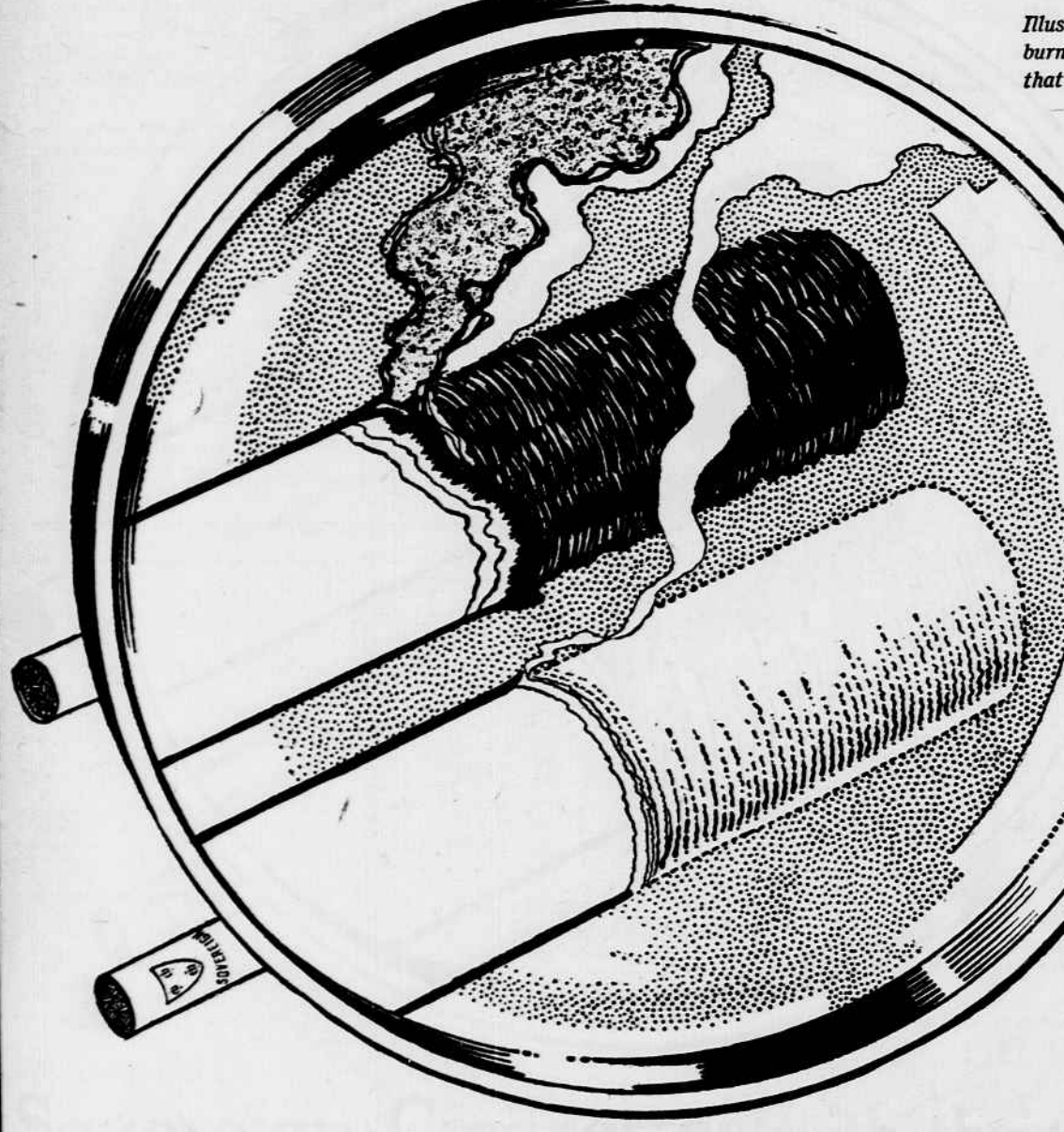
"He gave it as his opinion that Baltimore is blocking the withdrawal of the Feds' suit against organized base ball—Baltimore, always the dog in the manger, is living up to its reputation, as suggested by a statement issued by President Johnson of the American League a day or two ago. That was when he said that the peace pact is not actually completed, and cannot be until the Federal League suits are withdrawn."

ERWIN BAKER BREAKS MOTOR CYCLE RECORD

MELBOURNE, Australia, January 31.—Erwin Baker, American motor cyclist, covered 1,627 miles in twenty-one and one-half hours, thereby making a new world road record.

It was announced January 12 that Baker had covered at Melbourne 936 miles in twenty-four hours.

Illustration shows how SOVEREIGN burns if compared with a cigarette that was rolled in ordinary paper.



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Better Blending of finest Southern-grown Old Belt tobaccos give you a smooth, mild smoke that you can enjoy all day long, and always have a cool, pleasant feeling in your throat.

The Best Paper imported from France makes your enjoyment complete. SOVEREIGN burns

evenly and stays lit—no charring, no smouldering, no "going out" between puffs.

Entirely Different from any other cigarette you ever smoked—that's why you'll like SOVEREIGN better—"QUALITY TELLS!"

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THE AMERICAN TOBACCO COMPANY



more, which is a party to all such actions, is blocking the withdrawal of the case before Judge Landis, in consistent development. Back in 1913 Bryan Morse, coach of the athletics at the school, started to build up a quint out of green material. The two stars and main dependencies of the squad now, Raymond Peck and Lester Peine, were members of the five then, and the capabilities they are showing in the games this season are due to nothing other than long practice and assiduous work.

Western went through its season in 1913 with very little success, winning only one game. The team was then composed of Jack Adams, Edwin Giblin, John Mackall, Peck and Peine. In 1914-1915 the results of the hard practice of the previous year began to show, and Western won the championship of the Inter-scholastic League. The title was not captured, though, until after a tie with Business. The record for the year was twenty-five victories and five defeats.

There was a period in the circuit when fourteen straight wins were recorded. A total of 1,027 points was scored, against 335 for opponents. Western also scored more points than any other team in the league in one game—45. This quint was made up of Peck, Adams, Peine, Giblin, Mackall, Fuller, guards: Leitch, center: Stuart Smith, Richard Sergeant and John Wheelchel were the best of the second string players.

This season, with Peck and Peine playing the stellar roles and with three on the subs developed last year—Wheelchel, Smith and Sergeant—doing good work, it seems fairly certain that Western again is going to finish in front of the race for the championship of the Inter-scholastic League, and that by a big margin. Peck is playing center, Smith is leading the league with a team record, having won five games and lost none. Besides the contests it has won in the league, Western has captured two or three outside and has been how to any quint. Besides topping the other teams in the race, Western holds the record for the season for the greatest number of points scored in a single game, having defeated St. Alban's by 66 to 8. All the members of the team are to be graduated in June.

Several members of the team have done good work in other branches of sport. Peine is one of the best scholastic third basemen in the city; Peck pitches for the base ball team and plays fullback on the eleven; Sergeant holds down the field in base ball and halfback in foot ball; Wheelchel

Keep Class Players Together.

The theory of the league directors is that a much greater number of players would participate in tournaments if the chance of winning were somewhat evened up, and following this idea handicap club tournaments have been held, which, however, have not been wholly successful in their object of increasing the interest in tennis. In such tournaments superior players must meet men of much less ability, and while greater interest is necessary to overcome the handicaps, the interest has been less rather than greater, the poorer players getting the lion's share of the benefit from the matches. The ranking in a sectional tournament, it is planned, will be left to the judgment of a committee for the first year, after which the results of the matches of one year may be made to govern the section of the tournament in which a player will participate in the next annual event. The use of handicaps will make it possible to place the entrance fees at a figure which will be attractive to all.

Plans also are being made to bring a team representing the whole Departmental League into competition with teams representing Chevy Chase, Columbia and Dunbarton clubs, in a series of matches covering several weeks of the spring and summer. Those reaching the final and semi-final rounds in the class A tournament of the departmental will likely have the call in representing the league in the first of the interclub contests.

May Join National Body.

It also is proposed that the league become an active member of the U. S. N. L. T. Association, so its tournaments may be held under the auspices of this organization, and in return the strength of the Departmental may be added to organized tennis.

Those departments of the government not represented in the league in 1915 which cannot furnish a sufficient number of players to make a team of the size required by the league rules, but which will be agreeable to consolidating with some other department for this purpose, are invited to be represented at the coming meeting. The object is to have in the league, sooner or later, all tennis players in Washington who are employees of the government. The Capitol, Congressional Library and government printing office, for instance, did not participate in 1915.

Looking forward to next winter, the league will give its attention to plans for indoor courts to be made available for the use of all Washington players at the close of the outdoor season of 1916.

MANY RELAY RACES.

Howard University-Public Schools Indoor Meet to Be Big Event.

Relay races are going to prove a very interesting feature of the indoor meet to be held February 25 under the auspices of Howard University and the Public Schools Athletic League. Already the management is assured of relay races in all classes of competition. The captains of the high school companies are planning to enter teams representing their companies, and Lieut. West Hamilton of the National Guard will put in strong teams from each company of the District National Guard. Scoutmaster Hill of the Boy Scouts has written to enter teams from several troops. From Baltimore, Philadelphia, Atlantic City and New York will come a host of entries.

This is the only large open meet held indoors in this vicinity and in which large numbers of colored boys compete. For three years there has not been a meet held here, so that interest in it naturally is great. Lincoln University and Howard University will meet each other in a collegiate championship basketball battle. Several prominent national athletes will enter the meet. Entry blanks and information can be obtained from E. R. Henderson at 28 Street High School or Harry Martin of Howard University.

WESTERN'S QUINT DEVELOPED FROM VERY GREEN MATERIAL
Winning Only One Game Its First Year, Red and White Basket Ball Team Now Is Best in Southern Scholastic Circles.

BY H. C. BYRD.

The success of the Western High School basket ball team is the natural result of consistent development. Back in 1913 Bryan Morse, coach of the athletics at the school, started to build up a quint out of green material. The two stars and main dependencies of the squad now, Raymond Peck and Lester Peine, were members of the five then, and the capabilities they are showing in the games this season are due to nothing other than long practice and assiduous work.

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caught on the nine and held down the quarterback's position in foot ball, and Smith won his letter in foot ball as a halfback in the season of 1914-1915. To Bryan Morse, coach of the Red and White, should go the greatest part of the credit for the success Western has had in basket ball and in the other sports. Western, considering that it has lighter and less experienced material than the other schools, enjoys considerable success in all branches of sports. Of course, it has been in basket ball that Western has had greater success than other athletics, but that has been because weight and strength are the controlling factors. Morse has developed from green material one of the cleverest basket ball teams the scholastic sport has seen. Morse is well liked at Western not only because he has had success in developing strong teams in almost all branches of sport, but for the reason that his methods of handling the boys are such as to cause him to find favor with them.

Georgetown is not going to have a very easy time developing a good track team this winter. In fact, the Blue and Gray may consider itself lucky if it gets a fair quota of points in the various meets. There are some men out for the season who undoubtedly will show well, but others are more or less inexperienced. Among the new men out for the quarter mile and dashes is Griffin, who ran last year for Western High. Other dash men and quarter milers are Aury, Davis, Smith, Reno, Brett, Weiser and Stebbins. Weiser and Stebbins were members of the team last season. Brett and Smith were on the foot ball squad. Johnny Campbell, Crawford, Brew and Amy are the middle distance men. The squad is better fixed for field athletes, though. Weidman and Robertson being good pole vaulters and Low an exceptional high jumper. Showalter, McCarthy, O'Connor and Green are shot putters. If the Blue and Gray is to accomplish much in the way of points it looks very much as if it will have to do so in the field events, because its array of running talent, with the exception of Stebbins, does not look very promising.

The trials for the relay teams of the Columbia Athletic Club will be held tomorrow afternoon at the Y. M. C. A. at 5:30 o'clock. All those who intend trying to make a position on one of the quartets are requested by Capt. Joe Davis to be present. The Columbia Athletic Club will send its relay team to the trials, which are in a special car over the electric line, as it is the intention to enter an exceptional relay squad. The probabilities are the trials for the two-mile team will take place Wednesday if there is not sufficient time to have them for each four tomorrow.

LOOKING THEM OVER

—WITH BILLY EVANS—

Stories and Facts About Diamond Stars

Control means everything to a pitcher. If you have any doubts on that score, all you have to do is consult Harry Harper of the Washington team of the American League. Manager Griffith discovered Harper on a semi-professional team. He came to the American League without league experience of any kind. I happened to officiate in the first game in which Harper was given a chance. Naturally, he was nervous, as any youngster would be under the circumstances. Right off the reel he proved that he had a world of stuff, but little or no idea as to the location of the plate. He was so wild that few of the batters took any chances on trying to hit the ball. They simply stood in a remote corner of the plate and waited for the umpire to call the ball four.

Harper was advised to let up and try to get the ball over. When the batters observed this they began taking healthy swings, much to the discomfort of the youngster. On nearly every appearance Harper suffered the same fate. He had the stuff, but was practically worthless, since he couldn't get the ball over the plate. Had Harper been on a tail-end club that never had a chance, Manager Griffith could have ridden through and let him play out the string, thereby getting the much-needed experience. The Washington club, however, always had a look-in, and, of course, Harper's chances to show were limited; also, brief, as a rule, because of his wildness. The Washington club sends a good many of its young players to Joe Cantillon for seasoning, and several members of the team have been sent to him. Harper was one of the experience as a member of the Washington club, he was handed a ticket to Minneapolis.

Joe Cantillon is a manager little swayed by criticism. He will stand by his guns, no matter how fast and thick the abuse is coming. His patience, and the clever handling Harper received from Catcher Billy Sullivan, probably had much to do with shaping the career of Harper, and just how it appears to be a highly successful one. Harper sure had a wild and woolly experience with Cantillon. He worked in eighteen games, taking part, to be exact, in 133 innings of play. In that time he struck out 132 men; a trifle better than a man an inning, and gave 121 bases on balls, almost a pass an inning. In the Association it was regarded as an even money bet that if Harper didn't strike out the batter he would walk him. Here are just a few of the extraordinary games Harper turned in as a member of the Minneapolis club.

Pitched his first game against Columbus and lost, 8 to 7, in eleven innings. In this game he struck out sixteen batters and walked nine. He allowed only seven hits.

In his second game he worked four innings against Cleveland. In that short time he walked eleven and struck out seven, which is certainly going to the two extremes.

These two freak performances caused Harper to be a much-talked-about young man. It was on his third appearance, however, that he set the tongues of fandom to wagging. He shut St. Paul out without a hit. In this game he struck out a dozen and passed seven.

Harper's wildest experience of the year was staged July 5, when in eight innings of play, he walked twenty St. Paul players. He struck out seven, and it is needless to add, was beaten, 13 to 5.

Now, the American Association is known as a league of good hitters, since a great many of its players are former big league stars, who retain their former batting eye, though they may have slowed up a trifle in their legs or are handicapped by a weakened arm. That Harper could strike out ten or more men in eight of his eighteen games very naturally aroused much curiosity on the part of Manager Griffith. He decided to recall the young man and give him some big league experience, since a great many unexpected mishaps had put a rather severe crimp in the Nationals' chances to win the pennant.

That Harper looms up as one of the best young pitching prospects in the American League is shown in the pitching averages of that organization. Of the sixty-two pitchers who are included in the averages, Harper ranks fourth in the matter of effectiveness. In the nineteen games he worked, the percentage of earned runs off his delivery was 1.77 per game. In eighty-six actual innings pitched he struck out fifty-four men. That Harper needed work and experience to round out his pitching talents were conclusively proven by the number of good games he turned in for the Nationals after being brought back from Minneapolis. Here are a few of them:

August 20—Beat Cleveland, 8 to 0, allowing only four hits, striking out five men and giving only two bases on balls.

August 27—Beat St. Louis, 2 to 1, allowing five hits, striking out four and walking two.

September 2—Lost to New York, 1 to 0, allowing six hits, striking out four and walking two.

September 6—Beat New York, 5 to 0, striking out five, allowing three hits and walking one.

These are a few of Harper's best efforts, although he won other games in which he was not quite so effective. The noticeable feature in all his efforts was his excellent control, proving that control can be acquired, for I seriously doubt if any pitcher was wilder than Harper when he joined the majors. If the youngster delivers for Griffith next year as he should, judged from his fall performances, the Nationals will have developed a great young southpaw from the rawest of material.

BRIEF TRIP FOR WHITE SOX.

Players Will Not Leave for South Until March 12.

CHICAGO, January 31.—Brief, but lasting right up to the opening of the league season is the spring training trip arranged for the White Sox by Secretary Grabiner. Starting later than ever before, Rowland's players will play not more than fifteen exhibition games per team, spending the rest of the time conditioning themselves in the highlands of Texas and bathing in the pools of Mineral Wells. The main squad of White Sox will be asked to be on hand to board the special train March 12 and the railroad will be asked to land the players safely in camp in ample time to start work March 14.

CHAJES IN SECOND PLACE.

Retains Position in Rice Memorial Chess Match Yesterday.

NEW YORK, January 31.—Adjournments from the eighth and tenth rounds of the Rice memorial chess masters' tournament were played off yesterday. At the close of play Oscar Chajes still held second place, with a score of 7½ to 2½. He first obtained the position of second place in the tournament by defeating Rosenthal in their unfinished game from the eighth round. Bernstein, however, held Chajes to a draw in fifty-one moves by resorting to a perpetual check. The main event of the day was the match between Chajes and Rosenthal after fifty-seven moves, and Hodges forced Chajes to resign after fifty-seven moves in contests started Saturday. Capablanca, who leads in the tournament, did not play.

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AFTER BROOKLYN CLUB.

Gaffney, Davis, Fields and Cowan

May Buy Dodgers.

NEW YORK, January 31.—James E. Gaffney, former owner of the Boston Braves, is reported as organizing a syndicate to purchase the controlling interest in the Brooklyn base ball club.

Associated with Gaffney, according to the report, is Bob Davis of horseracing fame; Jake Fields, well known operator in Wall street, and Bill Cowan, once a noted operator on the race tracks.

The syndicate, if it can obtain control in Brooklyn, plans to corral a number of former Fed stars and organize a pennant-winning team. Charles H. Ebbets will be asked to name a selling price today.

Charles H. Ebbets, Jr., one of the officials of the Brooklyn club, was the only person in authority that could be located last night. He denied that the Dodgers were for sale. He said he couldn't speak for the McKeever brothers, who are largely interested in the club, but he never heard them say that they wanted to retire.